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I. INTRODUCTION.

The purpose of this research study is to determine the effects of culture, family background, and behavior on criminal development. Through greater understanding of the underlying causes of criminal behavior, better allocation of funding and development of social and preventative programming can be achieved.

Under the direction of Deborah J. Kottel, Dean of Graduate Studies at the University of Great Falls, student researchers from the University of Great Falls will conduct interviews with male prisoners from Montana prison facilities. The study will be conducted in partnership with the Department of Corrections and Gannett Inc. Ultimately, a total of 500 prisoners will be interviewed. The prisoners will be randomly selected and participation by the prisoners will be entirely voluntary.

In preparation for the greater study, an initial sample survey of 34 male inmates from the Cascade County Regional Correctional Facility in Great Falls, Montana, was interviewed. The purpose of the survey sample was to test the survey instrument and the receptivity of the inmate population to the survey process. The sample interviews were conducted by one interviewer who engaged in individual face-to-face interviews with each of the 34 inmates.

The inmates were not given any preparation for the interviews, but were asked if they would like to sit and talk to a graduate studies student and answer some questions. At the outset of each interview, the interviewer introduced herself, explained the purpose of the research study, briefly explained the informed consent

form, and asked each inmate if he wished to participate in the study. Inmates who wished to participate were handed an informed consent form which they were required to read and sign. Of the 35 inmates the interviewer met, only one declined to participate in the survey.

The interviews were conducted in the semi-private atmosphere of the inmate computer room within the prison facility. Although a door was left open at all times, and inmates and guards walked through the halls outside the room, the noise level was low and non-disruptive to the interview process. The interviewer sat across the table from the inmates at approximately arm's length.

The inmates were selected at random from among the adjudicated prisoners at the facility. No non-adjudicated inmates were interviewed. Prison personnel asked the inmates if they wanted to volunteer to be interviewed by a graduate studies student who was conducting research and would be writing a paper on the results. The inmates were brought to the computer room one at a time to be interviewed. Once the inmate was seated, the guard escort left the room. Each interview took from 15 to 30 minutes to conduct, depending upon the inmate. Some inmates wished to talk at length about their experiences, and others did not.

II. SURVEY METHODOLOGY.

A survey instrument was used consisting of questions and sub-questions which were divided into the following six categories: Section A, consisted of demographics concerning age of the inmate, race, education, marital status, number of children, current inmate contact with family, and likelihood inmate will reunite with family.

Section B, consisted of three open ended questions posed to the inmate concerning

what causes he thought lead to his incarceration, and what behavior he felt he needed to change to prevent recidivism. Section C, concerned the childhood background and trauma experienced by the inmate. Inmates were asked who raised them, whether their mothers and/or fathers used alcohol or drugs, whether there was mental illness in the family, whether they had sisters and/or brothers, what type of discipline was used by their parents, what their schooling was like, whether they were diagnosed with a learning disability, whether they were given medications as a child, whether or not they had ever had a head injury, and if they had ever been diagnosed with a mental illness. Section D, concerned the employment history of the inmate. Section E, concerned addictions of the inmate including alcohol, drug use, and gambling. Section F, included two closing open ended questions regarding parenting classes and what programs the inmates believed would be beneficial to them.

Forty-four questions and sub-questions were asked of the inmates under the various categories set forth above. Other than the demographic questions, open-ended questions, and questions which could be answered with a yes or no answer, each of the remaining answers to questions were graded on a Likert Scale. The scale most often resembled the following pattern: never, seldom, occasional, often, severe.

For example, the following question was posed to the inmates: "How often were drugs and/or alcohol used by your mother?" The answers given by the inmates

ranged from "never" to "daily." However, several of the inmates said that while their mother and/or father drank daily, they had only a glass of wine at dinner and were not alcoholics. Thus, another category was created under this question to tally only those

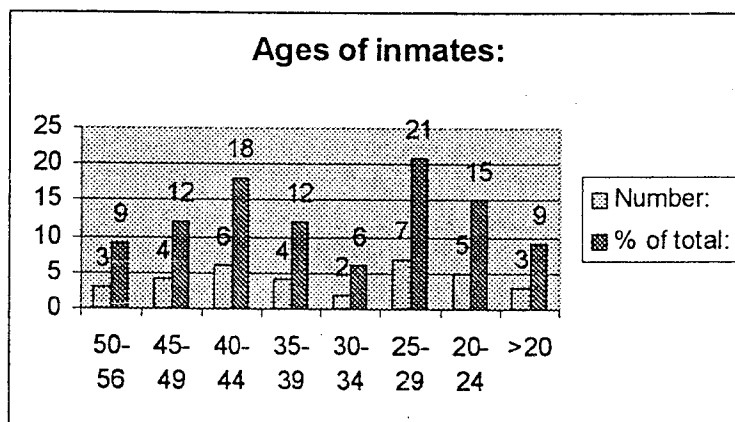
parents who were alcoholics. Thus, for this question, the Likert Scale categories were set forth as follows: never, seldom, occasional, often, alcoholic.

A separate but identical survey instrument was used for each inmate. Once the 34 surveys were completed, the survey results were tallied, a percentage score was calculated for each question (for instance, 4 of 34 inmates answering a question in the same way is the equivalent of 12%). The results were compiled into the survey section of this paper. Graphs were used to illustrate each of the answers according to percentages for clarity of presentation.

III. SURVEY.

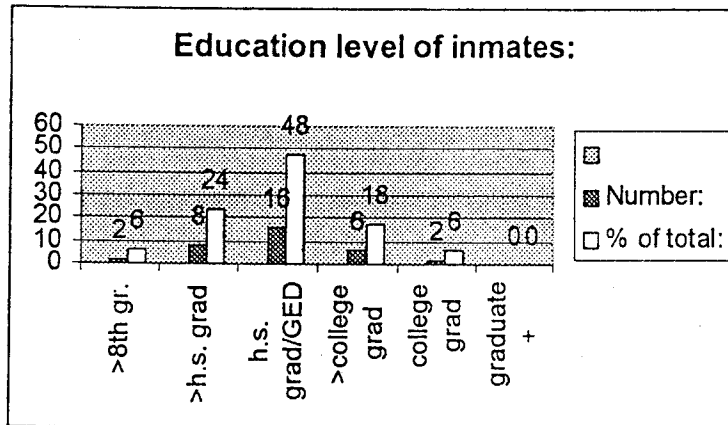
A. Demographics:

1. Ages of inmates surveyed:



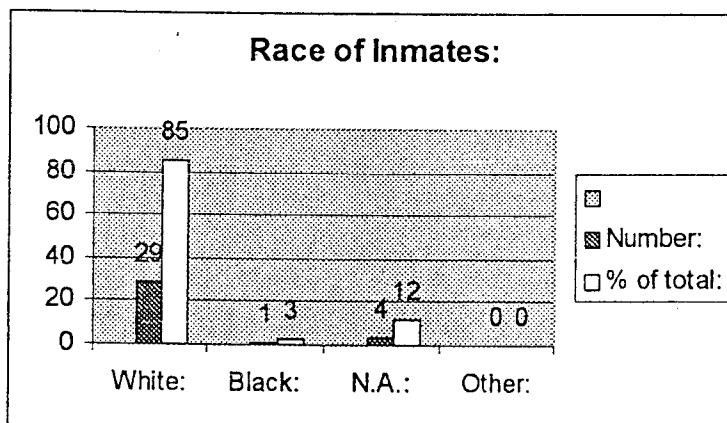
Comments: Ages of the inmates interviewed ranged from 18 to 56 years of age. Fifteen of those interviewed were less than 30 years old. Six were older than 30 but less than 40 years old. Thirteen were 40+ years of age.

2. Education level of inmates surveyed:



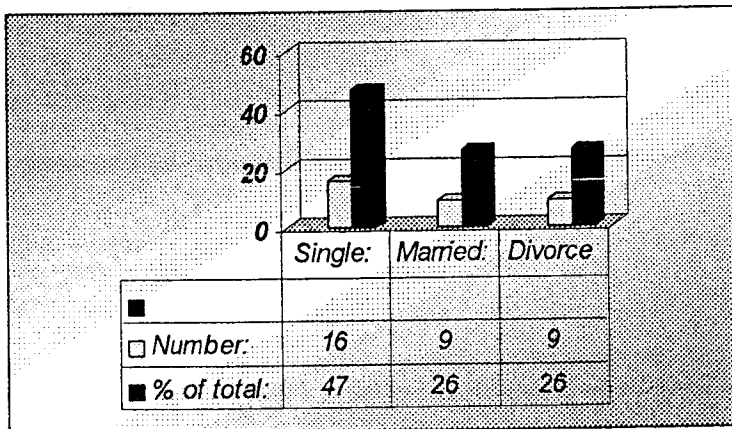
Comments: Ten of the inmates interviewed had less than a high school education. Sixteen inmates possessed a high school diploma or GED equivalency. Six had some college education and two were college graduates.

3. Racial mix of inmates:



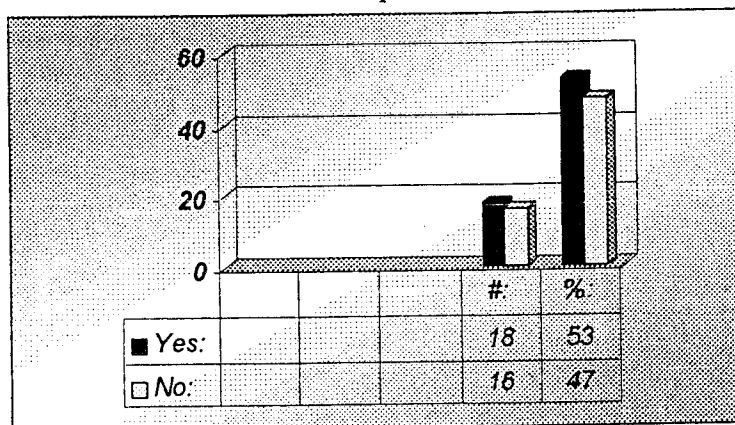
Comments: Eighty-five percent of the inmates interviewed were Caucasian. One inmate interviewed was African American and four inmates interviewed were Native American. No other race was represented in the sample survey.

4. Marital status of inmates:



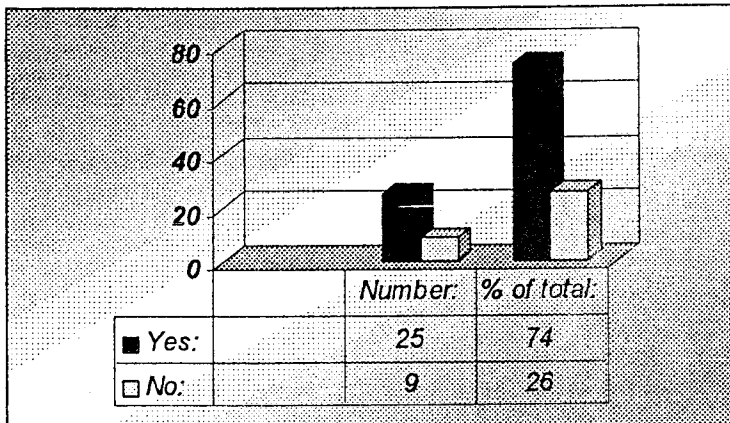
Comments: Almost half of the inmates interviewed had never been married. Fifty-two percent had been married with half of that number currently divorced.

5. Is inmate in contact with spouse and/or family?



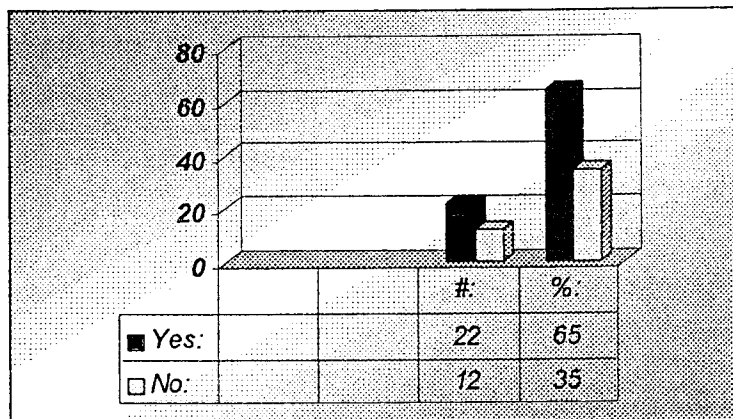
Comments: Fifty-three percent of the inmates interviewed were in current contact with a spouse, significant other, or family members. Forty-seven percent were not currently in contact with any family members.

6. Will inmate reunite with spouse and/or family after release?



Comments: Seventy-four percent of the inmates interviewed expected to be reunited with a spouse, significant other, or some family members after release from prison. Twenty-six percent did not expect to reunite with any family members upon release.

7. Does the inmate have children? If so, how many? :



Comments: Sixty-five percent of prisoners interviewed had children.

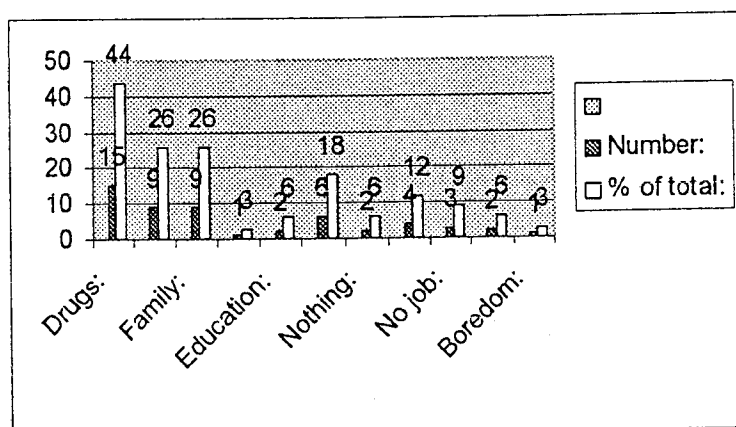
8. Of inmates that have children, how many children do they have?:

Number of children:	Number of inmates:	% of Total:
1	12	35
2	6	18
3	1	3
4	1	3
5	0	0
6	0	0
7	2	6

Comments: Of the 22 inmates who had children, 17 (77%) maintained contact with their children. Five inmates (23%) had no contact with their children.

A. OPEN ENDED QUESTIONS:

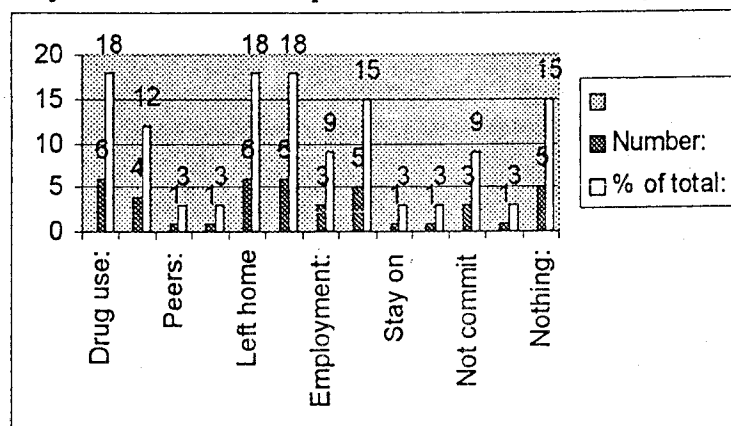
1. Other than the crime and conviction that resulted in your current incarceration, what factors in your life do you believe put you in prison?



Factors:	Number:	% of total:
Drugs:	15	44
Alcohol:	9	26
Family:	9	26
Peers:	1	3
Education:	2	6
Attitude:	6	18
Nothing:	2	6
Mental illness:	4	12
No job:	3	9
Discrimination:	2	6
Boredom:	1	3

Comments: Of the 34 inmates interviewed, 24 (71%) cited drugs and/or alcohol as a significant factor contributing to their current incarceration. Twenty-six percent believed that the family environment in which they developed contributed significantly to their problems with the law.

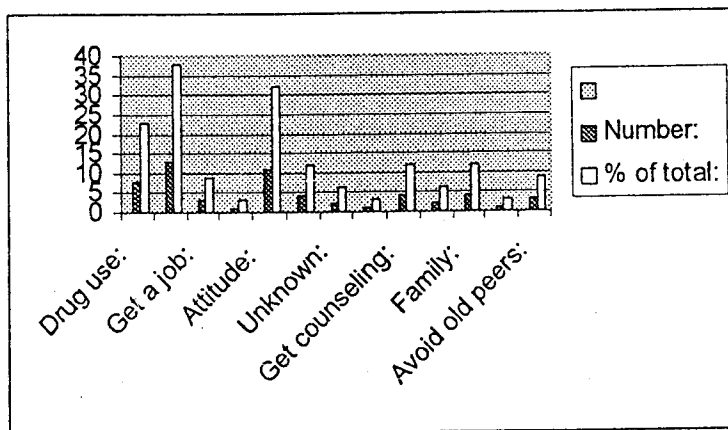
2. If you could go back in time and change one thing in your life so that you wouldn't be in prison now, what would you change?



Change:	Number:	% of total:
Drug use:	6	18
Alcohol use:	4	12
Peers:	1	3
Everything:	1	3
Left home too young:	6	18
Education:	6	18
Employment:	3	9
Attitude:	5	15
Stay on medicine:	1	3
Divorce:	1	3
Not commit crime:	3	9
Culture:	1	3
Nothing:	5	15

Comments: Thirty percent of the inmates interviewed said they would need to address their substance abuse problems to stay out of prison. Eighteen percent felt that they had left home too young. Fifteen percent said that their attitude needed to be addressed. Interestingly, 15% believed that nothing they did would have prevented them from being incarcerated.

3. If you were released today, what one thing will you need to change in your life so that you will never come back here again?

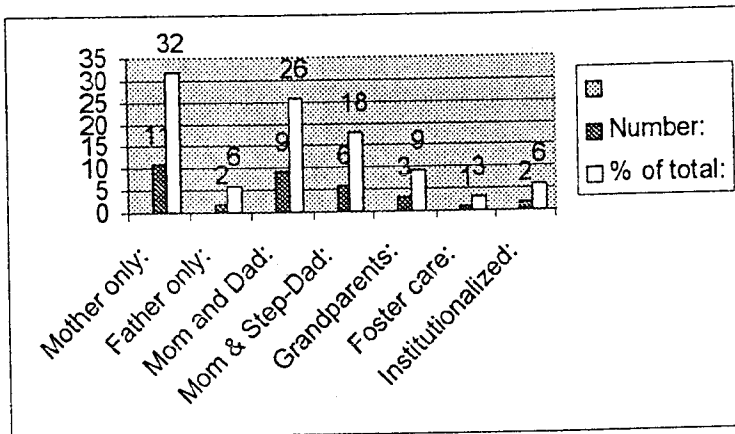


Change:	Number:	% of total:
Drug use:	8	23
Alcohol use:	13	38
Get a job:	3	9
Get an education:	1	3
Attitude:	11	32
Priorities:	4	12
Unknown:	2	6
Stay on meds:	1	3
Get counseling:	4	12
Lifestyle:	2	6
Family:	4	12
Religion:	1	3

Comments: Sixty-two percent believe that if they abstain from alcohol and/or drug use, they will manage to stay out of prison in the future. Thirty-two percent cite a change in attitude as what is necessary to stay out of prison.

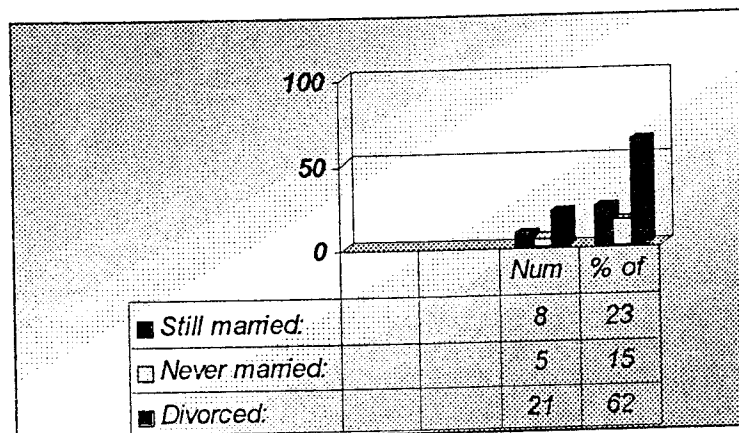
B. CHILDHOOD BACKGROUND/TRAUMA:

1. Who were you raised by?



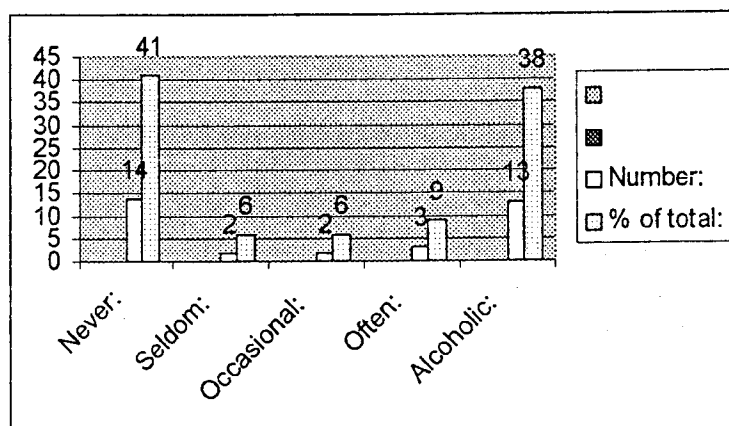
Comments: Thirty-eight percent of the inmates interviewed were raised in single parent families. Twenty-six percent were raised in traditional mother/father families. Eighteen percent were raised by their mother and stepfather. Nine percent were raised by grandparents. One inmate was raised in a European orphanage.

2. What was the marital status of your parents?:



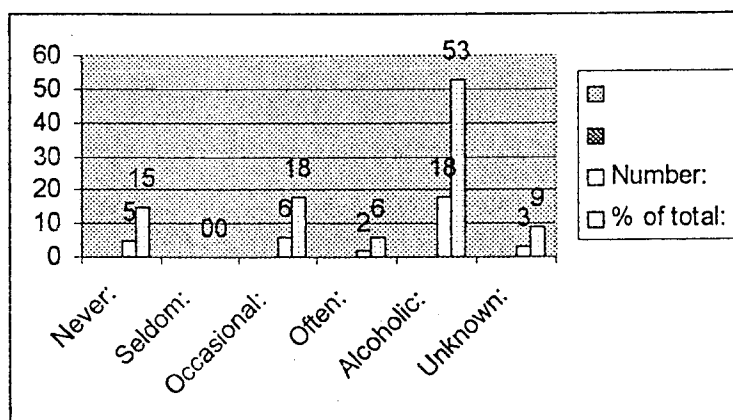
Comments: Twenty-three percent of inmates' parents were still married. Sixty-two percent were divorced and 15% were never married.

3. How often were drugs and/or alcohol used by your mother?



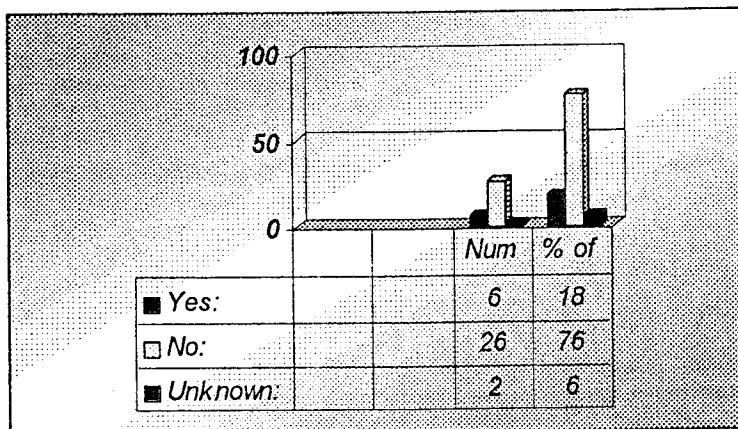
Comments: Forty-one percent of inmates said their mothers never used alcohol and/or drugs. Thirty-eight percent said their mothers were alcoholics and/or drug addicts.

4. How often were drugs and/or alcohol used by your father?



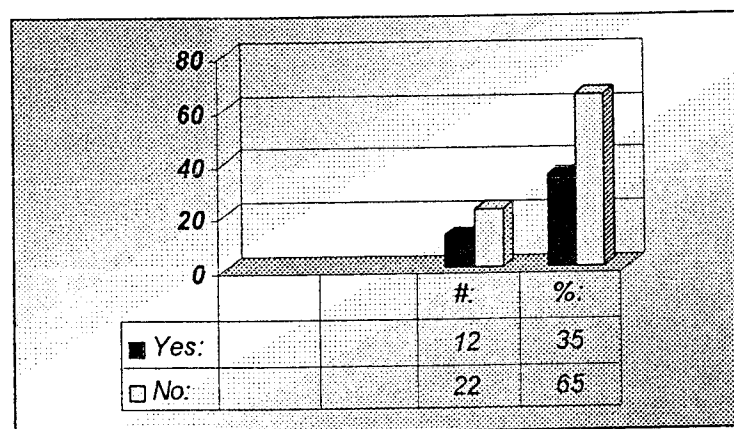
Comments: Fifteen percent of inmates said their fathers never used alcohol and/or drugs. Fifty-three percent said their fathers were alcoholics and/or drug addicts. Nine percent of inmates had never had any contact with their fathers.

5. Were either of your parents ever diagnosed with a mental illness:



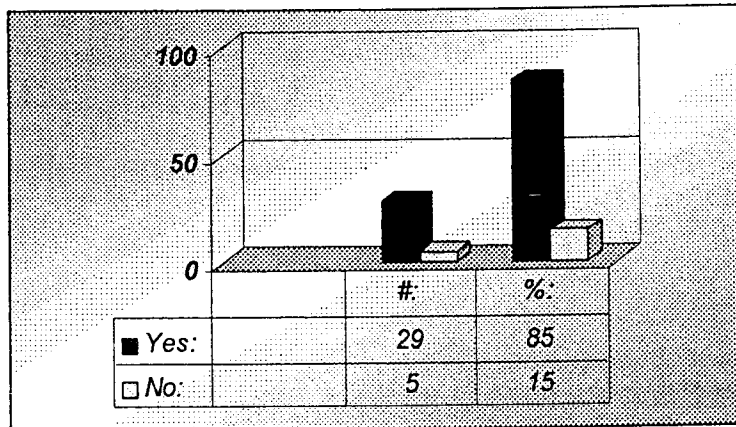
Comments: Seventy-six percent of inmates said that neither of their parents was ever diagnosed with a mental illness.

6. Were either of your parents ever incarcerated?



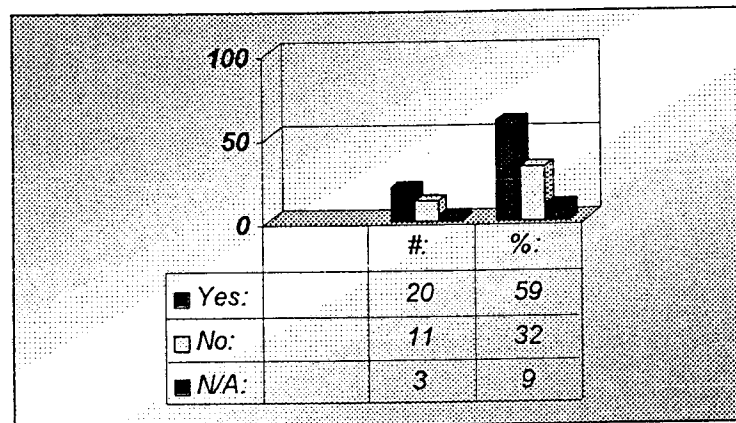
Comments: Thirty-five percent of inmates said that one or both of their parents had been incarcerated.

7. Are you in contact with either of your parents now?



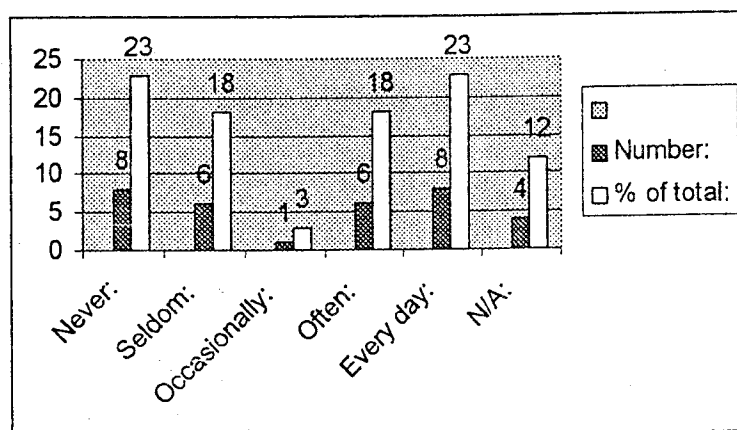
Comments: Eighty-five percent of inmates said they are in contact with one or both of their parents.

8. Are you in contact with any of your siblings now?



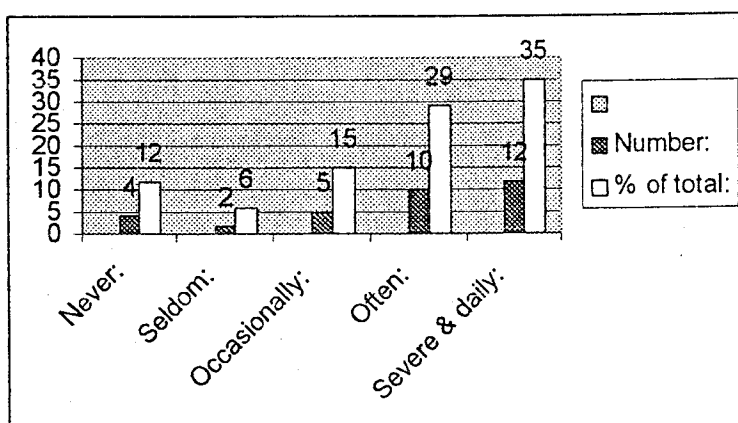
Comments: Fifty-nine percent of inmates said they are in contact with one or more of their siblings. Of the 32% inmates who had siblings but were not in contact with them, most said the reason for the lack of contact is that they do not get along with their siblings.

9. During your childhood, how often did you and your siblings get into fights?



Comments: Twenty-three percent of the inmates surveyed said they never had fights with their siblings and 23% claimed they fought with their siblings every day.

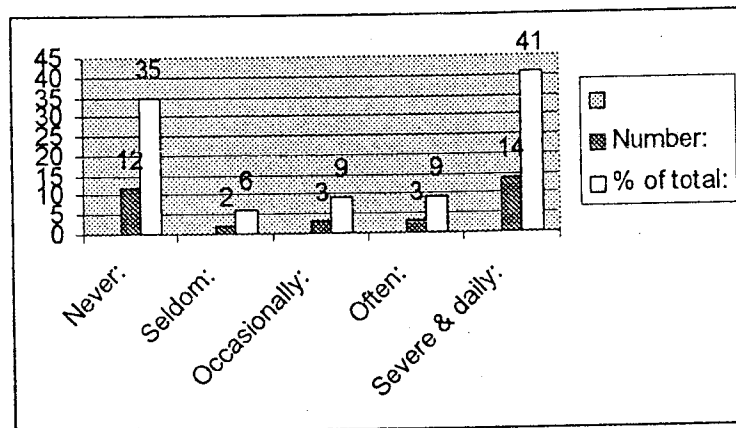
10. Did your parents discipline you by hitting or physically punishing you as a child?



Comments: Twenty-nine percent of inmates were physically disciplined more often than once per week, but less than daily. Thirty-five percent of the inmates surveyed said they were severely beaten by one or both of their parents on a daily basis. One inmate who was raised in a European orphanage said he was tortured on a daily basis by those in charge of the orphanage. This inmate said his fingers were beaten with a wooden rod and he was routinely denied food. Another inmate said his adoptive mother burned him, cut his face with a knife, hit him with pots and pans, poured boiling hot water on him, and beat him daily. Several inmates claimed to have been knocked out by their parents. Another inmate said his father forced him to dig a ditch to bury a waterline with his bare

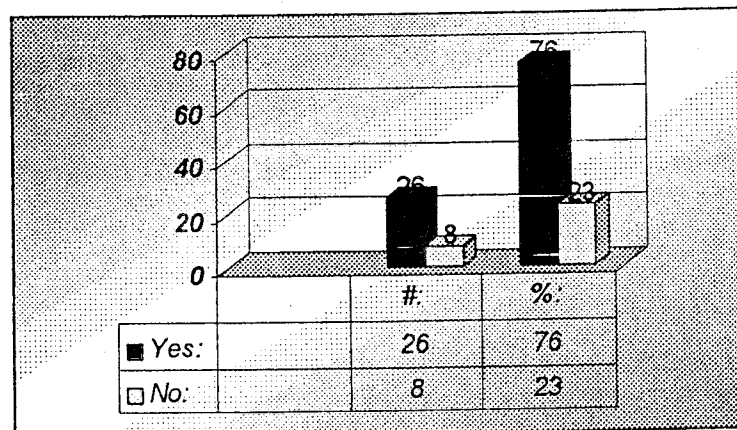
hands. One inmate said that his mother would hold his hand on a hot stove burner when she thought he was lying to her. Of those inmates who claimed childhood abuse, most were beaten with objects, such as extension cords, belts, sticks and boards. Three inmates said their parents had threatened them with death on more than one occasion. Only 12% of inmates surveyed said their parents never physically disciplined them. One of these inmates, who was raised by a single mother, said perhaps it would have been better for him if his mother had spanked him as a child.

11. Did your parents yell at you as child and/or call you names or put you down?



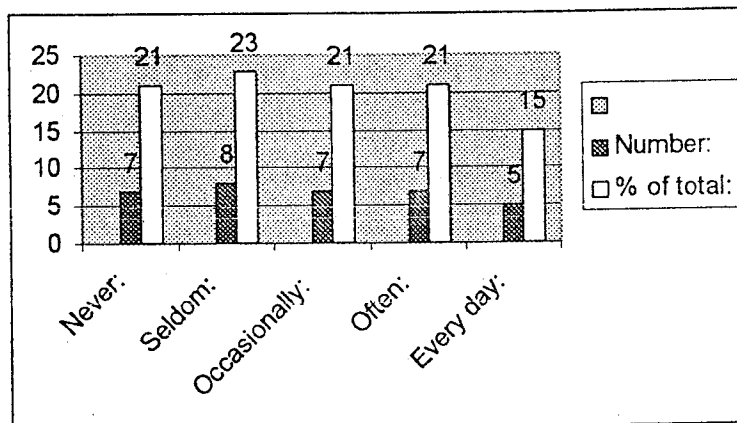
Comments: Thirty-five percent of inmates surveyed said their parents never yelled at them or called them names. Forty-one percent were subjected to severe, daily verbal abuse. Another 9% percent were yelled at more often than once per week, but less than daily. Of the worst of the verbal abuse, many said they were told they stupid or worthless, that they were never wanted, and that they would never amount to anything. Four inmates were told by their parents that they would eventually end up in prison.

12. Were you a discipline problem at school?



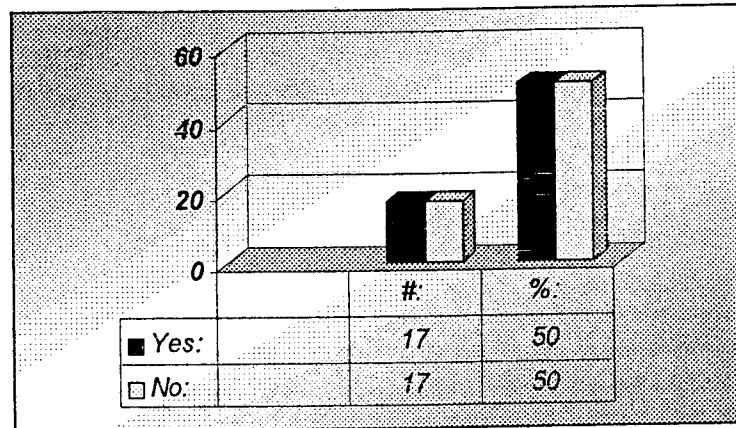
Comments: Seventy-six percent of inmates surveyed said they were discipline problems at school.

13. Did you ever get into fights at school?



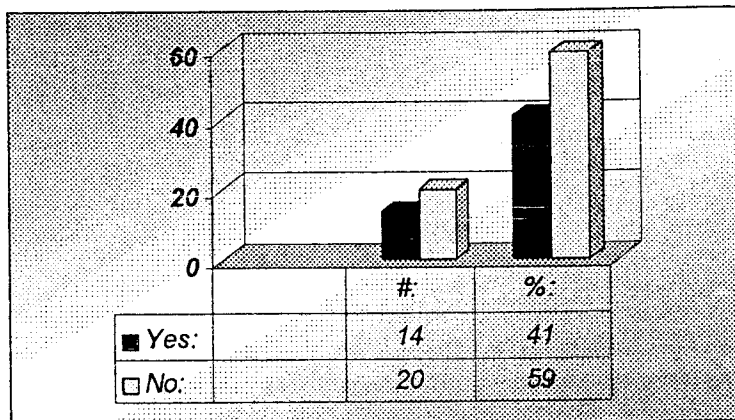
Comments: Seventy-nine percent of inmates got into fights in school. Of that number, 36% got into fights several times per week, or on a daily basis.

14. Were you ever diagnosed with a learning disability (were you ever called a slow learner?)



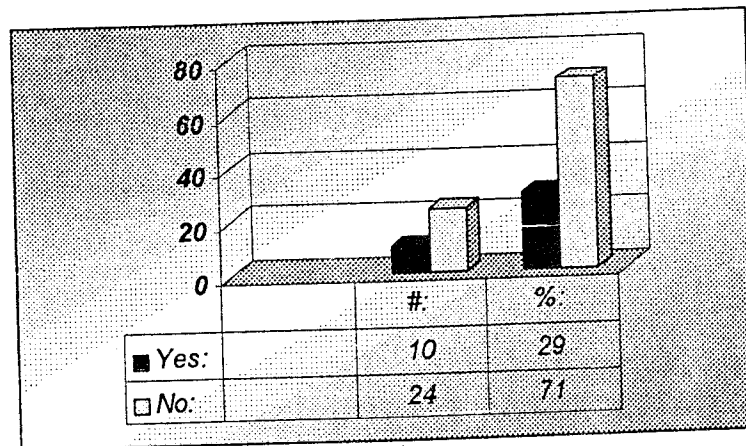
Comments: Fifty percent of inmates surveyed said they had been diagnosed with a learning disability.

15. Were you put into special education classes?:



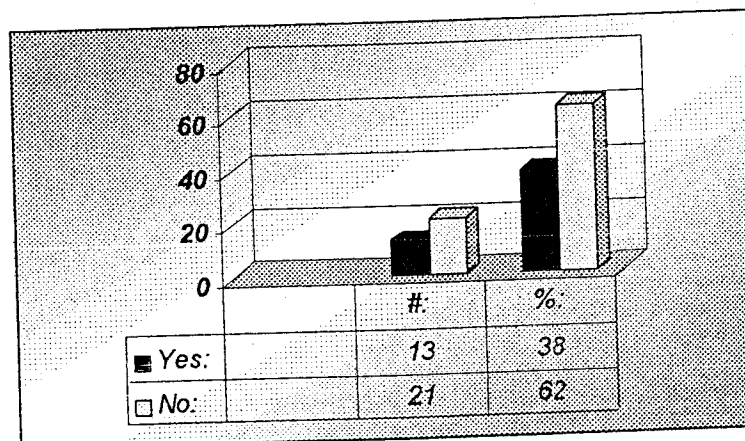
Comments: Forty-one percent of inmates were put into special education classes. Fifty-nine percent were never put into special classes.

16. Were you ever put on medication for ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder)?:



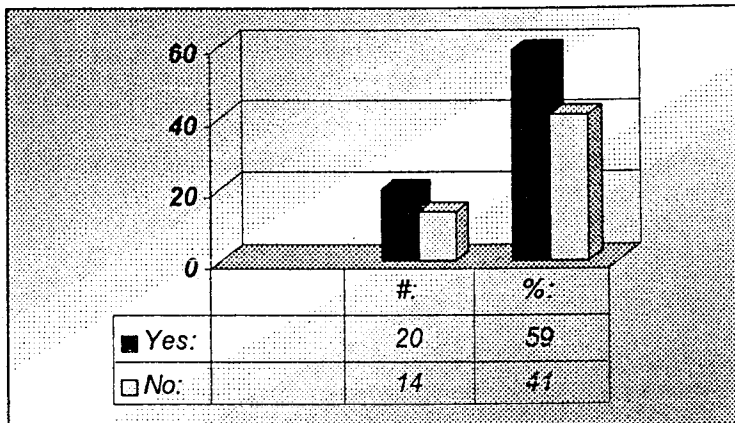
Comments: Twenty-nine percent of inmates surveyed were given Ritalin as children for ADD.

17. Were you on any medications as a child?



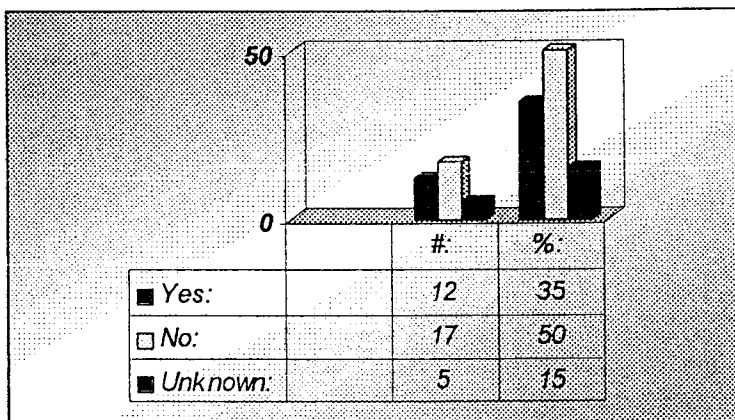
Comments: Thirty-eight percent of inmates surveyed were on medications as children. Most of those inmates received medication for ADD, but four inmates received medication for depression. Two inmates received medication for psychosis and/or schizophrenia. One inmate was on medication for epilepsy. The remainder was routinely given allergy medications. One inmate claimed he self medicated with anything he could find in the medicine cabinet.

18. Did you ever hit your head as a child?



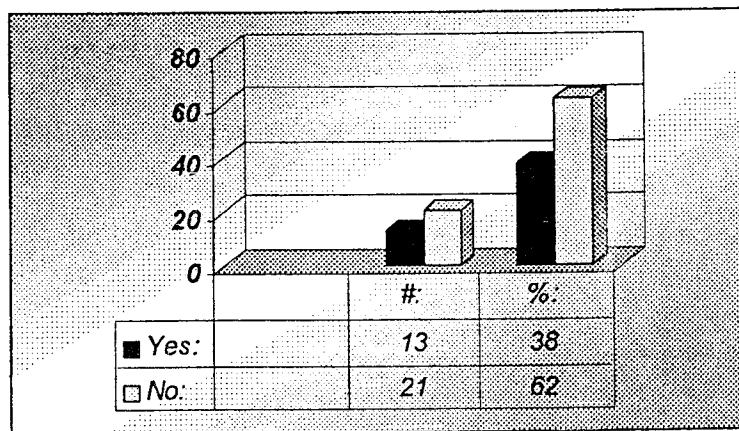
Comment: Fifty-nine percent of inmates surveyed received head injuries. Most of those inmates received multiple head injuries.

19. Were you ever knocked unconscious?



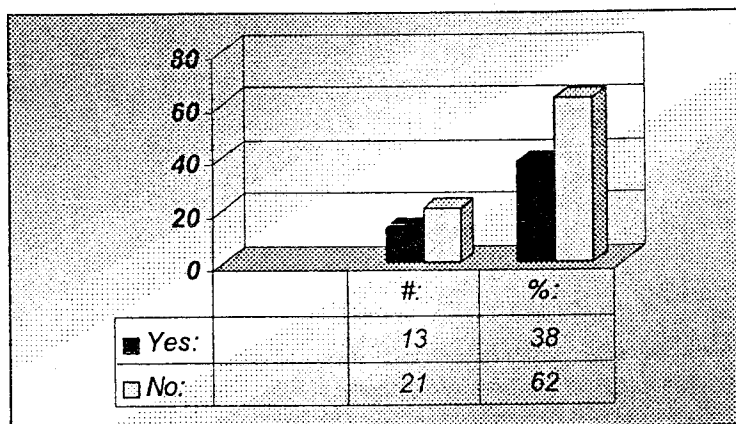
Comments: Thirty-five percent of inmates were knocked unconscious as children. Nine inmates had been knocked out multiple times. Of the inmates who had been knocked out as children, several had been knocked out by their own parents.

20. Have you ever been diagnosed with a mental illness:



Comments: Thirty-eight percent of inmates have been diagnosed with a mental illness. The diagnoses range from depression, anxiety, paranoia, bi-polar disorder, schizophrenia, and psychosis. Six inmates suffer from bi-polar disorder. Seven inmates suffer from depression. Two inmates said they diagnosed with schizophrenia.

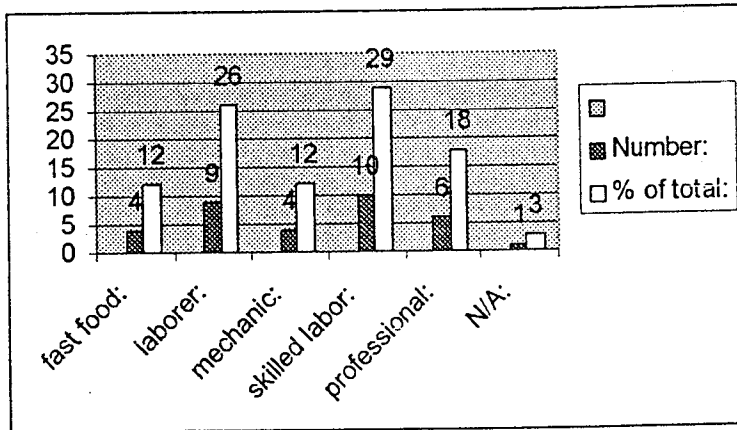
21. Are you taking any medications now?



Comments: The most common medications given to the 38% of inmates who receive medications are antidepressants. One inmate takes anti-seizure medication. Two inmates take anti-anxiety medication. Two inmates are taking Lithium. One inmate is taking an anti-psychotic medication.

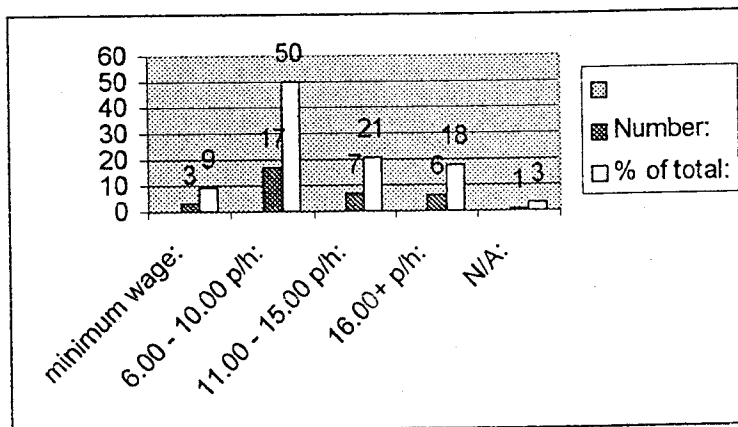
D. EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:

1. What was your last job:



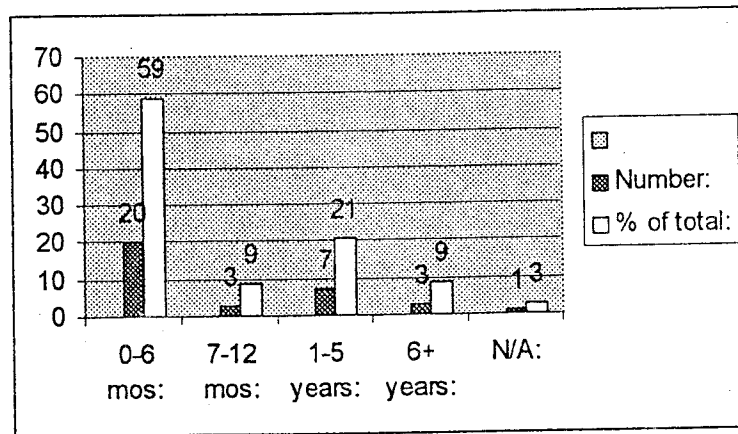
Comments: Twenty-six percent of inmates surveyed last worked as laborers. An additional 29% were skilled laborers (mechanics, craftsmen, and carpenters). Six inmates who were surveyed had been professionals. One inmate had never held a job due to his multiple disabilities.

2. What were you paid per hour at your last job:



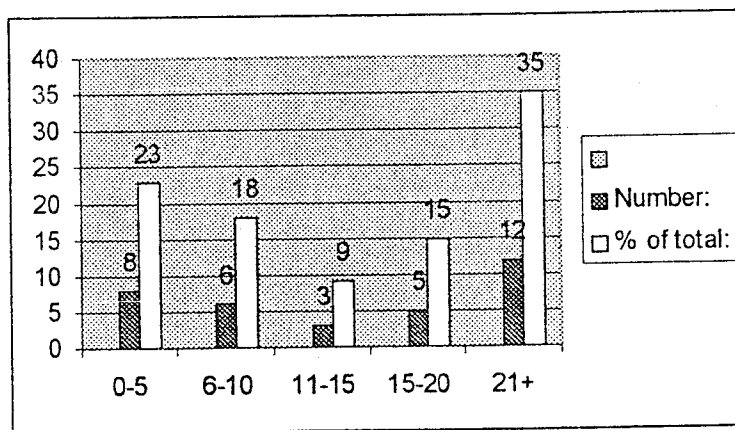
Comments: Only 3% of inmates earned minimum wage at their last job. Fifty percent of inmates earned between \$6.00 and \$10.00 per hour. Thirty-nine percent earned more than \$11.00 per hour at their last job.

3. How long did you work at your last job:



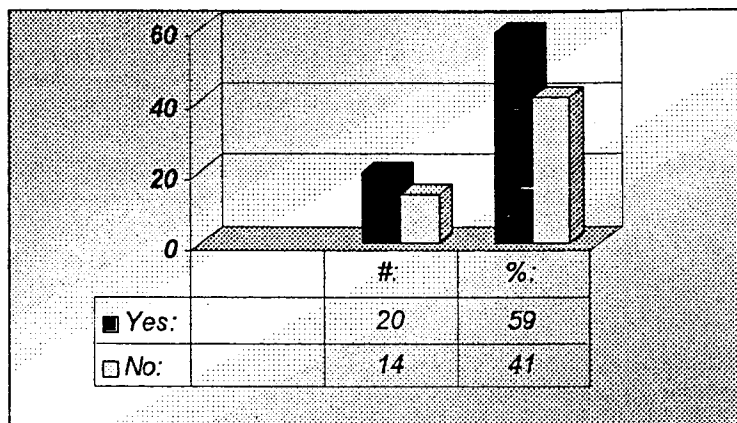
Comments: Fifty-nine percent of inmates surveyed had worked less than six months at their last job. Another 9% worked less than one year at their last job. Nine percent worked in excess of six years at their last job.

4. How many jobs have you had?



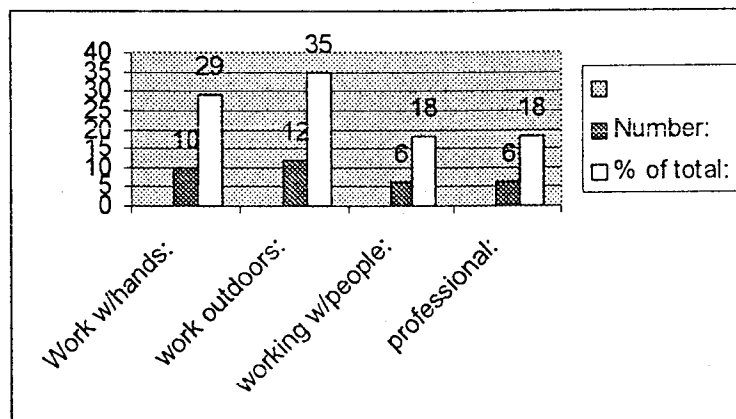
Comments: Thirty-five percent of inmates surveyed had held more than 21 jobs in their lifetimes. Twenty-three percent had held fewer than five jobs.

5. Were you ever fired?



Comments: Fifty-nine percent of inmates surveyed had been fired from at least one job. Forty-one percent had never been fired.

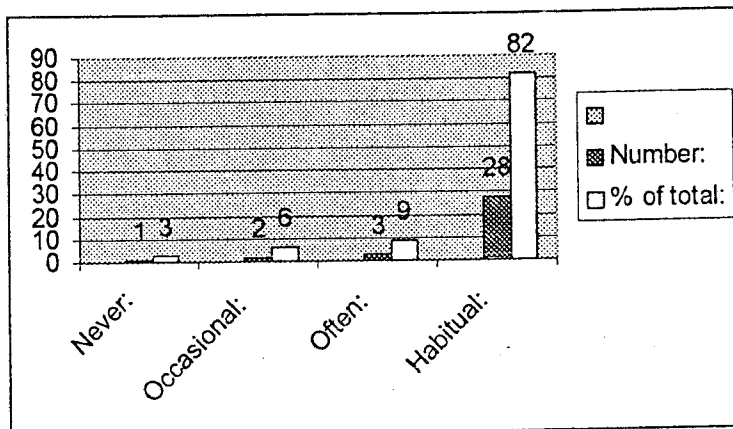
6. What was the best job you ever had?:



Comments: Twenty-nine percent of inmates surveyed preferred jobs where they could work with their hands. Thirty-five percent preferred jobs where they could work outdoors. Eighteen-percent liked jobs where they could work with people or children. The professional men surveyed hoped to return to professional jobs upon release.

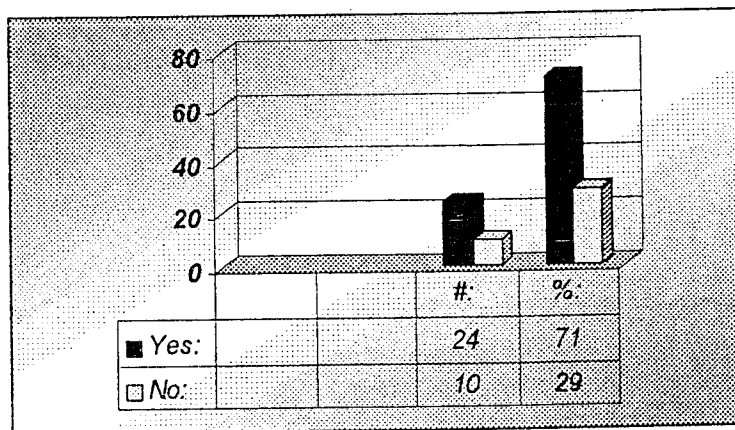
7. ADDICTIONS:

1. Prior to your conviction, did you use alcohol and/or drugs? If so, how often?:



Comments: Eighty-two percent of inmates surveyed claimed they used alcohol and/or drugs on a daily basis prior to their convictions.

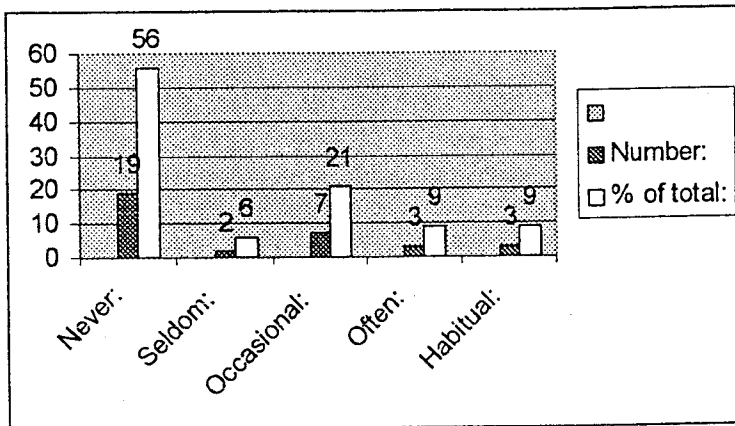
2. Did alcohol and/or drugs have anything to do with your conviction?:



Comments: Seventy-one percent of inmates claimed that alcohol and/or drug use contributed to their most recent convictions. Eighteen (53%) inmates said they used marijuana on a daily basis prior to their incarceration. Nine (26%) inmates said they used methamphetamines prior to their convictions. Six (18%) inmates said they used crank prior to their convictions. Five (15%) inmates said that they used cocaine prior to their convictions. All of the inmates who admitted drug use took drugs in combination with other drugs and alcohol. One inmate said that his mother put beer in his baby bottles. By age 11, this inmate had experienced blackout episodes while drinking. He has had 17 MIP's and claims to have "OD'd" on alcohol and drugs 16 times. This inmate also says he went on a "meth bender" and stayed awake for 20 days straight. The inmate who was

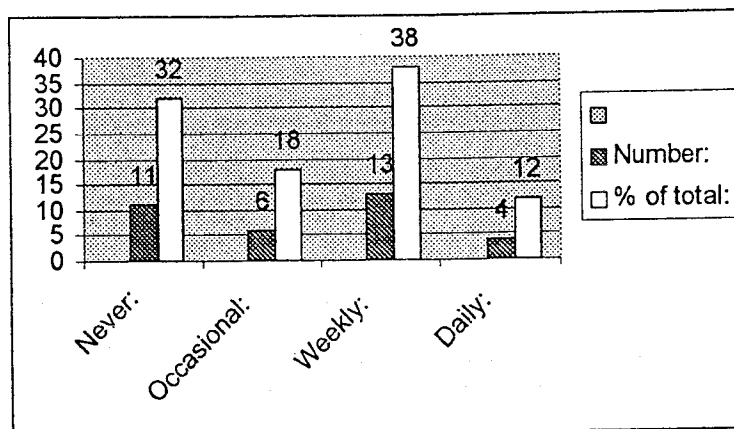
raised in a European orphanage said he began drinking vodka at age eight. Another inmate said he routinely went on drinking binges that lasted 3-4 days at a time. One inmate said he would go on weeks long methamphetamine binges. Several inmates were currently incarcerated for multiple DUI's.

3. Prior to your conviction, did you gamble? If so, how often?:



Comments: Fifty-six percent of inmates surveyed said they had never gambled. No inmate surveyed admitted to a gambling problem. Of those who gambled on occasion, or more often, all but one claimed they had never pawned anything for gambling money. The one inmate who had pawned items for gambling money claimed to have been a professional gambler who won more than he ever lost. Another inmate said that he had not pawned anything to gamble, but he had pawned things for drinking money.

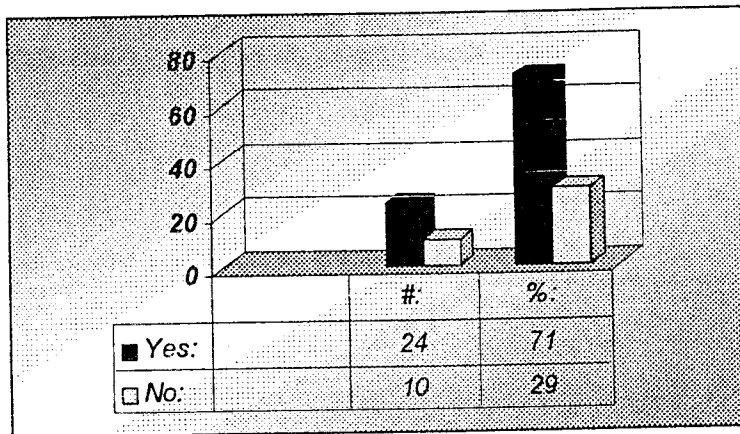
4. Have you ever or do you now attend church services?



Comments: Thirty-eight percent of inmates said they attended church services on a weekly basis before their convictions. Thirty-two percent said they had never attended church services. One inmate said he wouldn't attend church services while incarcerated because all of the child molesters attend.

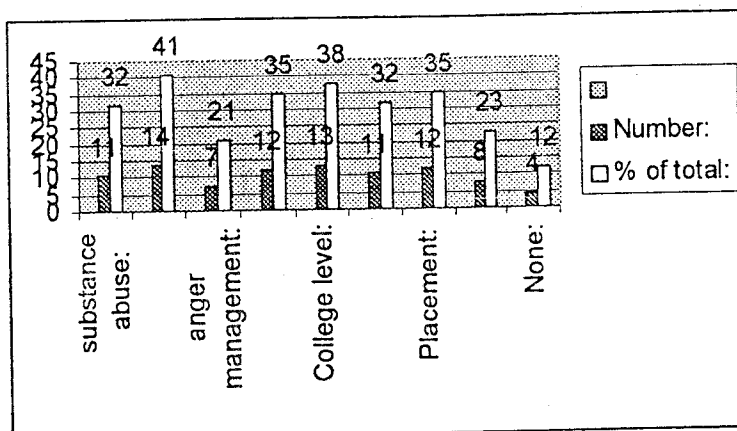
5. CLOSING OPEN ENDED QUESTIONS:

1. If parenting classes were available to you at this time, would you be interested in attending?



Comments: Seventy-one percent of inmates surveyed said they would like to attend parenting classes. Twenty-four percent said they would not want to attend because they do not have any children to raise.

2. What type of programs do you think would benefit you in prison?



Beneficial programs:	Number:	% of total:
substance abuse:	11	32
counseling:	14	41
anger management:	7	21
GED:	12	35
College level:	13	38
Vo-tech:	11	32
Placement:	12	35
Finance/budget:	8	23
None:	4	12

Comments: Forty-one percent of inmates surveyed want counseling services available to them in prison. Approximately 32 to 38% of inmates want to further their education while they are incarcerated. Thirty-five percent want to take classes, which will help them to reenter society and find jobs when they are released. Twenty-three percent want classes that will teach them how to handle their finances. Thirty-two percent want additional substance abuse counseling. Only four inmates said they didn't think any kind of additional programs would benefit them.

IV. CONCLUSIONS.

The survey instrument used for gathering the research for this project is adequate. The method of interviewing each inmate one-on-one individually produced little stress for the interviewer or the inmates. In order to avoid "interviewer effect," the interviewer dressed and behaved in a low-key manner and carefully avoided commenting on the answers given by the inmates.

Thirty percent of the inmates surveyed possessed less than a high school education. Forty-eight percent possessed a high school diploma but no formal education past high school. Only six percent of inmates surveyed were college graduates.

Eighty-five percent of the inmates surveyed were Caucasian. Given the makeup of the population of Montana, this percentage is probably not unusually high. Twelve percent of the inmates surveyed were Native American, and one inmate (3%) was African American. However, a change in these percentages may be experienced once a larger segment of the Montana prison population has been surveyed.

When asked what factors other than the crime committed put them in prison, 44% of the inmates admitted that drug use was the most significant factor. Twenty-six percent said alcohol abuse. Another 26% percent felt that the family they were raised in contributed to their incarceration. When asked what the inmate will need to do to stay out of prison, 62% believed they would need to address their substance abuse problems.

A significant number of prisoners interviewed, 32%, were raised by single mothers. Most of the inmates who said they were raised by single mothers expressed great admiration for their mothers, yet admitted that their mothers were frequently overwhelmed, had to work more than one job to make ends meet, and were often absent from home. Seventy-seven percent of the inmates came from "non-traditional" households, with 62% having been raised in broken homes, and 15% having been raised by a parent who was never married.

Forty-one percent of the inmates said their mothers never used alcohol and/or drugs. Thirty-eight percent qualified their mothers as alcoholics who abused alcohol and/or drugs on a daily basis. Fifteen percent of the inmates surveyed said that their fathers never used alcohol and/or drugs. Fifty-three percent of the inmates said their fathers were alcoholics who abused alcohol and/or drugs on a daily basis. Thirty-five percent of inmates said one or both of their parents had been incarcerated.

Sixty-four percent of inmates were physically punished by their parents on a regular basis. Thirty-five percent of inmates admitted to having been severely and routinely punished by one or both of their parents on a daily basis. A definite correlation exists between those parents with substance abuse problems and child beating, with inmates who reported the worst abuse having also reported said their parents were substance abusers. Forty-one percent of inmates were subjected to severe verbal abuse by their parent or parents.

Seventy-six percent of inmates surveyed admitted to having been discipline problems at school. Fifty percent of inmates had been diagnosed with a learning disability while attending school. Twenty-nine percent were given Ritalin for ADD while in school.

Fifty-nine percent of the inmates surveyed had received head injuries as children. Thirty-five percent of the inmates remembered having been knocked unconscious. Nine inmates reported being knocked out numerous times. Thirty-eight percent of the inmates had been diagnosed with a mental illness.

Eighty-two percent of the inmates surveyed admitted that they used alcohol and/or drugs on a daily basis prior to their convictions. Seventy-one percent believed that substance abuse was a contributing factor to their convictions. Fifty-three percent of the inmates had used marijuana on a daily basis, and 26% had used methamphetamines. All of the inmates who admitted to drug use said they used drugs in combination with alcohol and/or other drugs. Gambling was not a significant factor in the lives of the inmates surveyed, with 56% having never gambled, and only 9% claiming that they gambled on a daily basis. Thirty-eight percent of the inmates surveyed claimed regular church attendance; 32% said they had never attended a church service.

Seventy-one percent of inmates surveyed said they would attend parenting classes if given the chance. Forty-one percent of the inmates want counseling services made available to them during their incarceration. Thirty-eight percent would like to attend college courses, and 35% would like to attend classes that will make it easier for them to reenter society once they are released.

From the sample survey, the following significant factors emerged which may have contributed to the criminal behavior of the inmates surveyed: alcoholism and drug abuse of the inmate; alcohol and drug abuse by the inmates parent or parents; physical and emotional abuse suffered by the inmates during childhood; lack of higher education;

being raised by a single mother or in a non-traditional household; childhood head injuries; and mental illness of the inmate.

For the results of the larger research study to be scientific, an equal number of males who have never been incarcerated should be interviewed.